Program Overview

The Graduate Programs in Clinical Nutrition include the Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition, the Doctor of Clinical Nutrition and the PhD in Health Sciences Nutrition Specialization. These programs are exclusively designed for Registered Dietitians (RDs) and are web based. The Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition (MSCN) and the Doctor of Clinical Nutrition (DCN) Programs are models for advanced-level graduate study in clinical nutrition. The programs utilize a web-based platform to educate a diverse group of RD professionals to service the state, nation and communities abroad. Graduates are prepared with critical thinking and scientific skills needed for advanced-level clinical practice, management, research, and leadership roles to respond to the challenges of the 21st century. Graduates are consumers of research and scholarship, able to design, conduct, analyze, and publish scientifically sound research and other peer reviewed papers on evidence-based dietetics practice. The program instills an appreciation for interdisciplinary collaboration and education, provides "upskilling" opportunities to achieve expanded roles in health promotion, disease prevention, and intervention for a multi-cultural society.

Program Description

The Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP) MSCN is a 31-credit web-based graduate program designed for the RD seeking an advanced master's degree in nutrition with a clinical emphasis. The program integrates knowledge and skill development through an in-depth study of nutrition and applied clinical research. The research experience includes the design and conduct of a research study under the guidance of faculty mentors. This is a web-based program with a thesis requirement; although the majority of students attend part-time, a full-time option is available. Students are required to come to New Jersey a minimum of two times during the course of their study.
**Full-time and Part-time status**
The MSCN can be completed online on a part or full time basis. If completed on a part-time basis, it generally takes approximately three to four years to complete, depending on semester credit loads.

**Department Faculty**
Please see the department faculty under [Nutritional Sciences](#) department/all campus.

**Primary Campus Location**
The program is web-based. Students are required to come to New Jersey a minimum of two times during the course of their study.

**Curriculum**
See database for [program requirements](#) and course descriptions and select your program.

**Mission/Goals/Objectives**

**MSCN Mission Statement**
The MSCN is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence through an individualized advanced-level, clinically focused graduate degree program. The program instills an appreciation of lifelong learning, professional leadership and service. It prepares graduates with the advanced knowledge, expanded skills, and intellectual maturity necessary to become progressive, innovative and interprofessional practitioners and leaders in the dynamic health care environment.

**MSCN Goal Statements**
The MSCN:
1. Advances knowledge and expands skills necessary to execute the role of innovative and progressive dietetics practitioners;
2. Provides an outcome oriented, student centered approach to graduate education;
3. Promotes collaboration and interdisciplinary education through advanced level courses;
4. Promotes the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical nutrition/dietetics research;
5. Advocates professional leadership and service.

**MSCN Competencies**
Upon the completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to:
1. Provide medical nutrition therapy utilizing the Nutrition Care Process model inclusive of standardized language for nutrition diagnosing, assessment, care planning and monitoring of medically complex patients with acute, chronic, and terminal illnesses.

2. Collaborate with health care team members in the interdisciplinary management of specialized nutrition modalities, conditions, and illnesses.

3. Establish nutrition practices for health promotion, disease prevention and management independently or in collaboration with health care provider organizations.

4. Design and conduct dietetics/nutrition research in a variety of settings.

5. Become intelligent, critical consumers of research and scholarly work, able to incorporate the current scientific knowledge and emerging trends in science into practice.

6. Utilize effective management, leadership, and information technology skills to guide dietetics practice into the future.

7. Interpret and apply evidence-based research literature in clinical practice.


9. Assume roles as competent ‘upskilled’ practitioners.

10. Become life-long learners, using self-assessment and continuing education to persistently advance individual knowledge and skills.

11. Comply with the Code of Ethics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and display ethical behavior in practice, education, and scholarly activities.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Prospective students must be RDs. Application materials include the [SHRP application](#), an official copy of the transcript for the highest nutrition degree earned, a copy of the RD card, a resume, one letter of recommendation, and a letter stating short and long term goals for completing the MSCN Program. A minimum GPA of 3.2 is required for admission, however, applicants with a lower GPA may be considered on an individual basis. Applicants that meet the admission criteria will be scheduled for an interview with select faculty in the Graduate Programs in Clinical Nutrition.

Graduates of the Rutgers - SHRP Dietetic Internship who maintained a 3.2 GPA in the program are accepted into the program if they complete all application procedures within five years of graduation. Six elective credits from their graduate internship course work may be transferred when the MSCN is started within 5 years of graduation from the Dietetic Internship. Graduates of the Rutgers-SHRP Coordinated Program who maintained a 3.2 GPA in the nutrition didactic and rotation courses of the Coordinated Program are accepted if they complete all application procedures within five years of graduation. Graduates from both programs must submit all application materials and be interviewed by program faculty. Undergraduate transcripts are not required as long as a letter is included within the application materials stating their graduation date from Rutgers.
Applicants who are foreign-trained must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and must submit an official copy of a transcript evaluation prepared by a recognized transcript evaluation agency such as: World Education Services Inc., PO Box 5087, Bowling Green Station, New York, NY, 10274-5087, [http://www.wes.org/](http://www.wes.org/); or similar transcript evaluation service. Foreign-trained applicants who have completed a master’s degree in the U.S. are eligible for a waiver from this requirement.

Students may apply for admission to the fall or spring semesters and refer to deadlines.

**G.P.A. minimum requirement/credentialing requirement:**
A Minimum G.P.A. of 3.2 and current registration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration are required.

**Additional Offerings**
The Department of Nutritional Sciences at Rutgers is a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Accredited Provider (#UN001) with the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Each course hour is equivalent to one CPE credit hour. For more information on the continuing education course we offer visit the Institute for Nutrition Interventions website.

**NON-MATRICULATED STATUS**
Practitioners who may be considering enrollment, or who may wish to simply advance their knowledge and skills, may take up to 12 credits on a non-matriculated basis.
Please refer to the non-matriculated students website.

**For more information**
For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (973) 972-5336 or via e-mail. Additional programmatic information is available or by going to the program website.

**For more specific information contact the program at:**
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
RBHS - School of Health Related Professions
Department of Nutritional Sciences
MS Clinical Nutrition Program
Laura Byham Gray, PhD, RD, Program Director
65 Bergen Street, Room 157,
Newark, NJ 07101-3001
**Phone:** 973-972-8525  **E-mail:** byhamgl@shrp.rutgers.edu
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